WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing system for transferring a data file between information processing apparatuses, each including a storage device, said system comprising:

transmission-directory acquisition means for acquiring a number of transmission directories having each data file to be transmitted as a subordinate directory;

transmitted-directory acquisition means for acquiring a number of transmitted directories having each transmitted data file as a subordinate directory; and

first generation means for generating a signal indicating a status of progress of transfer of data files, based on the number of transmission directories acquired by said transmission-directory acquisition means and the number of transmitted directories acquired by said transmitted-directory acquisition means.

2. A system according to Claim 1, wherein said first generation means comprises calculation means for calculating a degree of progress from a comparison between the number of transmission directories and the number of transmitted directories.

3. A system according to Claim 2, further comprising display means for displaying the degree of progress.

4. A system according to Claim 1, wherein an upper limit is set for a

number of data files capable of being stored in each directory.

5. A system according to Claim 3, wherein a display of the degree of progress is updated every time transfer of all data files in one directory has been completed.

6. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising second generation means for generating a signal indicating a status of progress of data transfer based on a number of data files to be transmitted and a number of transmitted data files, wherein said first generation means and said second generation means are switchable.

7. A system according to Claim 6, wherein switching between said first generation means and said second generation means is performed in accordance with the number of transmission directories.

8. A system according to Claim 6, wherein switching between said first generation means and said second generation means is performed in accordance with a display capability of a display device for displaying the status of transfer progress.

9. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising third generation means for generating a signal indicating a status of progress of data transfer based on a total amount of data of data files to be transmitted and a total amount of data of transmitted data files, wherein said first generation means and said third generation means are switchable.

10. A system according to Claim 9, wherein switching between said first generation means and said third generation means is performed in accordance with the number of transmission directories.

11. A system according to Claim 9, wherein switching between said first generation means and said third generation means is performed in accordance with a display capability of a display device for displaying the status of transfer progress.

12. A system according to Claim 1, wherein a destination of data-file transfer is a digital camera.

13. An information processing apparatus for transferring a data file to an external apparatus including a storage device, said apparatus comprising:

transmission-directory acquisition means for acquiring a number of transmission directories having each data file to be transmitted as a subordinate directory;

transmitted-directory acquisition means for acquiring a number of transmitted directories having each transmitted data file as a subordinate directory; and

generation means for generating a signal indicating a status of progress of transfer of data files, based on the number of transmission directories acquired by said transmission-directory acquisition means and the number of transmitted directories acquired by said transmitted-directory acquisition means.

14. An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said generation means comprises calculation means for calculating a degree of progress from a comparison between the number of transmission directories and the number of transmitted directories.

15. An apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising display means for displaying the degree of progress.

16. An apparatus according to Claim 13, further comprising image pickup means.

17. An information processing apparatus for receiving a data file from an external apparatus including a storage device, said apparatus comprising:

transmission-directory acquisition means for acquiring a number of transmission directories having each data file to be transmitted as a subordinate directory;

transmitted-directory acquisition means for acquiring a number of transmitted directories having each transmitted data file as a subordinate directory; and

generation means for generating a signal indicating a status of progress of transfer of data files, based on the number of transmission directories acquired by said transmission-directory acquisition means and the number of transmitted directories acquired by said transmitted-directory acquisition means.

18. An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said generation means comprises calculation means for calculating a degree of progress from a comparison between the number of transmission directories and the number of transmitted directories.

19. An apparatus according to Claim 18, further comprising display means for displaying the degree of progress.

20. An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein a destination of data-file transfer is a digital camera.

21. An information processing system for transferring a data file between information processing apparatuses, each including a storage device, said system comprising:

first acquisition means for acquiring a capacity of use of a storage device of an information processing apparatus serving as a transfer source;

second acquisition means for acquiring an amount of data whose transfer has been completed; and

calculation means for calculating a degree of progress based on a comparison between the capacity of use acquired by said first acquisition means and the amount of data acquired by said second acquisition means.

22. A system according to Claim 21, wherein most of the capacity of use of the storage device of the information processing apparatus, serving as the transfer source, is occupied by data to be transferred.

23. A system according to Claim 21, wherein, when transferring data at a time, first, the capacity of use of the storage device of the information processing apparatus, serving as the transfer source, is acquired.

24. A system according to Claim 21, wherein the degree of progress is updated every time transfer of one data file has been completed.

25. A system according to Claim 21, further comprising display means for displaying the degree of progress.

26. An image pickup system comprising:

an image pickup apparatus including a storage device;

an information processing apparatus; and

a communication channel through which data can be transferred between said image pickup apparatus and said information processing apparatus,

wherein, when transferring image files within the storage device of said image pickup apparatus to said information processing apparatus at a time, a degree of progress based on a comparison between a total number of transmission directories having each image file to be transmitted as a subordinate directory and a total number of transmitted directories having each transferred image file as a subordinate directory is displayed.

27. A system according to Claim 26, wherein an upper limit is set for a number of data files stored in each directory.

28. A system according to Claim 26, wherein, when transferring image files at a time, information relating to directories stored in the storage device of said image pickup apparatus is acquired in advance, and a display of the degree of progress is updated every time transfer of all image files in one directory has been completed.

29. An image pickup system comprising:

an image pickup apparatus including a storage device;

an information processing apparatus; and

a communication channel through which data can be transferred between said image pickup apparatus and said information processing apparatus,

wherein, when transferring image data within the storage device of said image pickup apparatus to said information processing apparatus at a time, a degree of progress is displayed based on a comparison between a capacity of use of the storage device of said image pickup apparatus and an amount of transferred image data.

30. A system according to Claim 29, wherein most of the capacity of use of the storage device of said image pickup apparatus is occupied by image data.

31. A system according to Claim 29, wherein, when transferring image data at a time, the capacity of use of the storage device of said image pickup apparatus is acquired in advance.

32. A system according to Claim 29, wherein the degree of progress is calculated and a display is updated every time transfer of one image file has been completed.

33. A system according to Claim 29, wherein during transfer of image data, a total size of transferred image data is calculated and a display is updated whenever necessary.

34. An information processing method for transferring a data file between information processing apparatuses, each including a storage device, said method comprising:

a transmission-directory acquisition step of acquiring a number of transmission directories having each data file to be transmitted as a subordinate directory;

a transmitted-directory acquisition step of acquiring a number of transmitted directories having each transmitted data file as a subordinate directory; and

a first generation step of generating a signal indicating a status of progress of transfer of data files, based on the number of transmission directories acquired in said transmission-directory acquisition step and the number of transmitted directories acquired in said transmitted-directory acquisition step.

35. A method according to Claim 34, wherein said first generation step comprises a calculation step of calculating a degree of progress from a comparison between the number of transmission directories and the number

of transmitted directories.

36. A method according to Claim 34, further comprising a display control step of causing a display device to display the degree of progress.

37. A method according to Claim 34, wherein an upper limit is set for a number of data files capable of being stored in each directory.

38. A method according to Claim 34, wherein a display of the degree of progress is updated every time transfer of all data files in one directory has been completed.

39. A method according to Claim 34, further comprising a second generation step of generating a signal indicating a status of progress of data transfer based on a number of data files to be transmitted and a number of transmitted data files, wherein said first generation step and said second generation step are switchable.

40. A method according to Claim 39, wherein switching between said first generation step and said second generation step is performed in accordance with the number of transmission directories.

41. A method according to Claim 39, wherein switching between said first generation step and said second generation step is performed in accordance with a display capability of a display device for displaying the status of transfer progress.

42. A method according to Claim 34, further comprising a third generation step of generating a signal indicating a status of progress of data transfer based on a total amount of data of data files to be transmitted and a total amount of data of transmitted data files, wherein said first generation step and said third generation step are switchable.

43. A method according to Claim 42, wherein switching between said first generation step and said third generation step is performed in accordance with the number of transmission directories.

44. A method according to Claim 42, wherein switching between said first generation step and said third generation step is performed in accordance with a display capability of a display device for displaying the status of transfer progress.

45. A method according to Claim 34, wherein a destination of data-file transfer is a digital camera.

46. An information processing method for transferring a data file between information processing apparatuses, each including a storage device, said method comprising:

a first acquisition step of acquiring a capacity of use of a storage device of an information processing apparatus, serving as a transfer source;

a second acquisition step of acquiring an amount of data whose transfer has been completed; and

a display step of displaying a degree of progress based on a comparison between the capacity of use acquired in said first acquisition step and the amount of data acquired in said second acquisition step.

47. A program, capable of being executed by a computer, for realizing an information processing method according to any one of Claims 34 through 46.

48. An information processing method for sequentially processing a plurality of data files stored in a storage device, said method comprising:

a processing-directory acquisition step of acquiring a number of processing directories having each data file to be processed as a subordinate directory;

a processed-directory acquisition step of acquiring a number of processed directories having each processed data file as a subordinate directory; and

a first generation step of generating a signal indicating a status of progress of processing of data files, based on the number of processing directories acquired in said processing-directory acquisition step and the number of processed directories acquired in said processed-directory acquisition step.

49. An information processing method for sequentially processing a plurality of data files stored in a storage device, said method comprising:

a first acquisition step of acquiring a capacity of use of the storage device;

a second acquisition step of acquiring an amount of data whose processing has been completed; and

a display step of displaying a degree of progress based on a comparison between the capacity of use acquired in said first acquisition step and the amount of data acquired in said second acquisition step.